

SUMMARY OF NOMINATION INFORMATION IN ONJH FILES

NAME Essex Club
COUNTY Newark
MUNICIPALITY Essex

TYPE:
Individual X
Historic District
Multiple Property
Documentation Form

NOMINATION FORM

ONJH FILES

- Nomination form (If there are continuation sheets, please indicate number)

-- First page (#1-6)

-- Description (#7)

-- Significance (#8)

-- Last page (#9-11)

- SHPO Signatures

- USGS Map

- Site plan

- Tax map

- Floorplan

- Photo index map

- Other maps

- Photographs (Indicate number)

--Exterior

--Interior

--Streetscapes

--Outbuildings

--Historical

--Negatives

--Contact Sheet

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

2

10

CS:

CS: 3

CS: 2

CS: 1

DATE OF LISTING

State Register 1/14/91

National Register 2/22/91

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

N.J.H.S.I. #

Newspaper/Magazine Articles ✓

HABS

Other (Please specify)

Draft Nomination

Correspondence ✓

Contextual Data

STAFF MEMBER Beth Johnston

DATE 6/27/91

UPDATES: STAFF

DATE

STAFF

DATE

NEW JERSEY FILE

National Register notification of listing to SHPO: _____

SHPO Notification of Listing: (indicate date)

State Register 01/14/91 Letter 01/25/91 General Notice _____

National Register 02/22/91 Letter 06/14/91 General Notice _____

Supplemental Information:

N.J.H.S.I. _____ Draft nomination _____

Newspaper/Magazine articles _____ Correspondence _____

HABS _____ Contextual data _____

Other _____

Materials in Storage:

Newspaper/Magazine articles _____ Correspondence _____

Historical information _____ Other _____

State Register Encroachments:

Tax Act Certification:

Section 106 Consultations and Comments:

Grants-in-Aid:

Local Ordinance:

NEW JERSEY FILE

National Register notification of listing to SHPO: _____

SHPO Notification of Listing: (indicate date)

State Register 01/14/91 Letter 01/25/91 General Notice _____

National Register 02/22/91 Letter 06/14/91 General Notice _____

Supplemental Information:

N.J.H.S.I. _____ Draft nomination _____

Newspaper/Magazine articles _____ Correspondence _____

HABS _____ Contextual data _____

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Historical information _____ Other _____

State Register Encroachments:

Tax Act Certification:

Section 106 Consultations and Comments:

Grants-in-Aid:

Local Ordinance:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Essex Club
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 52 Park Place ☒ not for publication
city, town Newark ☐ vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Essex code 013 zip code 07102

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/ANumber of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date 1/14/91

Acting Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Club house

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Club house

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Georgian Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation cast stone

walls brick

roof bituminous

other wrought iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Essex Club, located at 52 Park Place, across from the eastern edge of Military Park, is a 3 bay, 5 story, English Georgian influenced brick and cast stone club building. Designed and constructed in 1926 by the locally noted firm of Guilbert and Betelle, the structure serves as the clubhouse for the Essex Club, the oldest existing business club in Newark, founded in 1876. Maintained as originally designed, the Club's interior decorative features include classical architectural mouldings, ornate lighting fixtures, paintings, sculptures and antiques. Formal dining rooms, lounges, private bedroom suites and squash courts are some of the executive amenities offered by the Club.

The three bay, five story, symmetrically designed facade is characterized by a tri-partite division of spaces into base, body and attic (Photo 2). The first floor base of the building consists of a cut stone base and a rusticated coursed cut stone wall surmounted by a Greek key incised belt course. The main entrance, located in the center bay of the rusticated base is composed of paired Doric columns supporting an entry porch with an entablature of a dentillated architrave, blank frieze and mutule-supported cornice. The six panelled paired wooden entrance doors are surmounted by a leaded fanlight. The 8/8 flanking single windows have flat rusticated lintels, stone sills and "S"-scrolled decorative iron grates. The body and attic of the building are laid in Flemish bond brick with cut stone quoins.

The second and third stories, forming the body of the building, have the most elaborate surface ornamentation. The second floor windows feature shouldered stone architraves, lintel entablatures with keystone female masks and semi-circular iron balconies. The center window is ornamented by a keystone bearded male mask and a bracket-supported segmentally arched broken pediment decorated with a

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Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ

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central festooned cartouche and a rectangular monogrammed iron balcony. All the second floor windows feature 12/12 double hung wood sash. The 8/8 third floor windows feature shouldered stone architraves with scrolled window pediments.

The attic of the structure is separated from the body by a narrow decorative stone belt course which also serves as the sill for the fourth floor windows. The windows are further decorated with flat gauged brick arches with a limestone keystone flanked by a single limestone voussoir. The fifth floor 8/8 windows have flat gauged brick lintels with protruding brick keystones and stone sills.

The entablature is composed of a moulded architrave, dentillated and egg-and-dart ornamented frieze and a modillion-supported cornice. The structure is surmounted by a cast stone roof balustrade of recessed panels alternating with balusters. An iron flagpole, used for the exhibition of the Club standard, is attached to the facade above the second floor center bay broken pediment.

The structure is irregular in plan, following the "L"-shape of the narrow lot. The short leg of the "L" forms the front of the building on Park Place; the long leg of the "L" forms the eastern rectangular extension of the structure. Although the facade of the structure is attached to the adjoining buildings on the north and the south, the long leg of the "L" has been set back from the southern lot line to allow an alley which serves to illuminate the south side of the structure flooding the interior with natural light. The alley begins behind the main stairwell, illuminating it with light from the southeast through its three story window grouping.

Interior

The building is entered through paired entrance doors into a small foyer which leads to the lobby through French doors. On either side of the vestibule, facing the front of the building, are offices. To the north of the lobby is the coat room. The rectangular lobby (Photo 3) opens up to the south to reveal an open suspended semi-circular staircase illuminated by a four sash casement window on three floors, creating an atrium effect (Photo 4). To the north of the staircase a corridor turns a ninety-degree angle to the east

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leading to the rectangular extension of the building where the "Grill" or "tap room" (Photo 6) and its associated kitchen and storage areas are located. A rear corridor leads to a service elevator and back staircase.

The suspended staircase leads to the grand second floor public rooms of the clubhouse (Photo 8). A large hall opens on the west to the "library" or "lounge" area which features rich mahogany paneling with intricately carved door surrounds and entablature, and a massive fireplace on the south wall (Photo 7). To the east is the main dining room also finished in wood paneling, although painted, an ornate plaster ceiling, and a fireplace on the north wall (Photo 5). Behind (to the east) the dining room are the kitchen and storage areas. Two dumbwaiters connect the main kitchen with the other floors.

The third floor contains the large "Essex Room" at the west end of the building as well as five function rooms of various sizes connected by a corridor along the north wall. A service pantry, restrooms and storage areas are also located on this level.

The fourth floor contains two large bedroom suites in the front of the building and eight bedroom suites in the rectangular extension to the east. Each bedroom suite consists of a bedroom, a large closet and a bath. The two largest bedroom suits at the front of the building also contain living rooms. All bedrooms open onto an "L" shaped corridor along the north wall and between the eastern rectangular extension of the structure and the front section of the building.

The fifth floor contains two large bedroom suites at the front of the building. The rectangular eastern section of the structure contains a single bedroom suite, a squash lounge with dressing room, a shower and toilet room, two tournament sized squash courts and a locker room.

The sixth floor, also known as the mechanical room penthouse, contains the mechanical room, a small lounge and a gallery from which one can observe the squash courts below and the upper courts (Photo 9). Access to the roof is provided through a door in the west wall of the mechanical room.

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The clubhouse is in relatively good condition and has retained a very high level of integrity. Most of the interior finishes are intact with some exceptions. These are: the painted wood paneled walls and the acoustical tile ceiling fit around the plaster ceiling medallions in the main dining room. Original interior finishes include plaster walls, ceiling, mouldings (crown, chair rail and baseboard), paneled wood doors and their surrounds, random width pegged wood plank floors underneath carpeting and original fixtures and hardware.

The site of the building is located on the east side of Park Place, Block 125, Lot 13. The property dimensions are 40.29' (west) x 175.37' (north) x 43.14' (east) x 32.53', 68.42', 9.92', and 67.20' (irregular southern boundary). The total area is .183 acre.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social history

Period of Significance

1926

1926 - 1940

Significant Dates

1926

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Guilbert and Betelle

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Essex Club is significant architecturally as one of the best examples of the English Georgian influence used on a commercial building in Newark (Criterion C). Designed by the prominent architectural firm of Guilbert and Betelle, the design of the Essex Club is in keeping with the traditional, conservative nature of the Club. Occupying a prominent position on Military Park, the city's "Middle Commons," the club is part of a streetscape which includes such notable buildings as the Robert Treat Hotel immediately to the north and the Military Park Building, a 21 story Art Moderne office building occupying the southern corner of the block (Photo 1). The Essex Club also faces Gutzon Borglum's large scale bronze monument "Wars of America," Borglums' largest sculpture after Mount Rushmore. The structure is also significant in the area of Social History as the club house of the Essex Club, the oldest businessmen's club in Newark, in continuous existence since 1876 (Criterion A).

In both design and workmanship, the Essex Club is indicative of the high quality of commercial architecture built in Newark in the 1920s, a period of growth and expansion for the city. Construction of the Essex Club was part of the 1920s post-war building boom which celebrated Newark's success as the largest and richest city in New Jersey. During this period of seemingly endless prosperity, Newark's famous skyline and downtown were created, including its major twentieth century landmarks, such as the Newark Museum, the Firemen's Insurance Company, Essex County Hall of Records, New Jersey Telephone Company, the 34 story Raymond-Commerce Building, the 35 story National Newark Building and Newark Airport (Cunningham 1966: 274).

☒ See continuation sheet

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ

The new Essex Club building replaced the previous club house, a converted wood frame residential building, in the same location on the park. Newark's social and business leaders clustered near the parks, as they had been doing since the nineteenth century. Before World War I, leading families such as the Ballantine and Wards lived in mansions fronting on either Military Park or Washington Park (Cunningham 1966: 242). The post-war building boom gradually replaced the lavish residences with elegant commercial structures around the perimeters of the parks. The construction of the new club house, which coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the Club (founded 1876), referred to the new architectural context of the neighborhood by employing style without ostentation, classical proportion, and traditional ornament executed in masonry. The use of the Doric order gave the building a grave, robust and masculine aspect, appropriate to a men's club house. (The design of the second floor windows was a variation of the one used by Inigo Jones at the Banqueting House in London).

The architectural firm of Guilbert and Betelle, founded in 1916, was known primarily for educational/institutional structures in the Middle Atlantic states. Among its more notable works in Newark are the Robert Treat Hotel, Chamber of Commerce Building, Newark School of Fine and Industrial Art (Arts High), Essex County Hall of Records and the North Ward National Bank (Architectural Record, February 1931, xeroxed reprint: n.p.). Other projects include State Teachers Colleges at Jersey City, Glassboro, and the New Jersey State Reformatory for Boys in Annandale and the Third State Hospital for the Insane, Hillsdale, New Jersey (Newark Evening News, June 6, 1952). The firm also designed 125 schools in Delaware, and high schools in Greenwich, Connecticut, Great Neck, New Rochelle, Tarrytown and Tuxedo Park, New York (Architectural Record, February 1931).

The Essex Club was the social pace setter of the day and was the initial sponsor of the annual Assembly Ball, the most brilliant affair of Newark's social season (Cunningham 1966: 242). The club house provided a gathering place for Essex County's most successful and prominent businessmen. The roll of the founding members of the Club reads like a veritable "Who's Who" on Newark and New Jersey history and includes such prominent men as Peter, John and Robert Ballantine, of the brewery fame; Thomas B. Peddie, benefactor of the Peddie Memorial Baptist Church; Edward Weston, electrical inventor

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Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ

and founder of Weston Electrical Instruments; Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, attorney general of New Jersey during the Civil War years and his son Frederick, president of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company; William Clark of Clark Thread Works; Franklin Murphy, governor of New Jersey; Moses Bigelow, Sylvester S. Battin, Stephen J. Meeker, Anthony, Edward and George Keasby, Thomas T. Kinney, Cortlandt Parker, Worthington Pinney, Robert B. Symington, Eugene Vanderpool and Henry Young among others (Certificate of Incorporation, March 19, 1881).

The founding president of the club was A. Pennington Whitehead, who served in this capacity until he was replaced in 1895 by W. Frederick Frelinghuysen. Other presidents include:

1913 - John R. Hardin	1972 - Francis E. P. McCarter
1946 - Ludolph H. Conklin	1975 - Rodney N. Houghton
1946 - W. Clark Symington	1981 - John R. Thornton
1950 - John R. Hardin, Jr.	1983 - Christopher M. Wiedenmayer
1962 - S. Harrison Rollinson	1985 - William F. Tompkins
1968 - Walter M. Krementz, Jr.	1989 - Edward N. Lippincott

The club continues to serve the business community to this day.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet 9.1.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:

Essex Club

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .183 acre Elizabeth, NJ Quad

UTM References

A

1	8	5	7	0	2	2	0	4	5	0	9	9	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The site of the building is located on the east side of Park Place, Block 125, Lot 13. The property dimensions are 40.29' (west) x 175.37' (north) x 43.14' (east) x 32.53', 68.42', 9.92' and 67.20' (irregular southern boundary).

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries of the nominated property include land historically associated with the Essex Club.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ulana D. Zakalak, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee date August 15, 1990

street & number P.O. Box 1066

telephone (201) 622-4910

city or town Newark

state New Jersey zip code 07101

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ

9. Major Bibliographic References

Cunningham, John T. Newark. Newark, New Jersey: New Jersey
Historical Society, 1966.

"Guilbert and Betelle." Architectural Record. February 1931, xeroxed
reprint in the Newark Public Library vertical file, Art Department.

Newspapers

"J. O. Betelle Rites Abroad." Newark Evening News, 6 June 1952:
n.p.

Miscellaneous

Essex Club, Certificate of Incorporation, filed and recorded March
19, 1881, (Miscellaneous Corporations F 211).

"Essex Club" Yearbook, 1986 - 1989.

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National Park Service

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Section number _____ Page _____ : PHOTOGRAPHS

Essex Club, Newark, Essex
County, NJ

Photographs

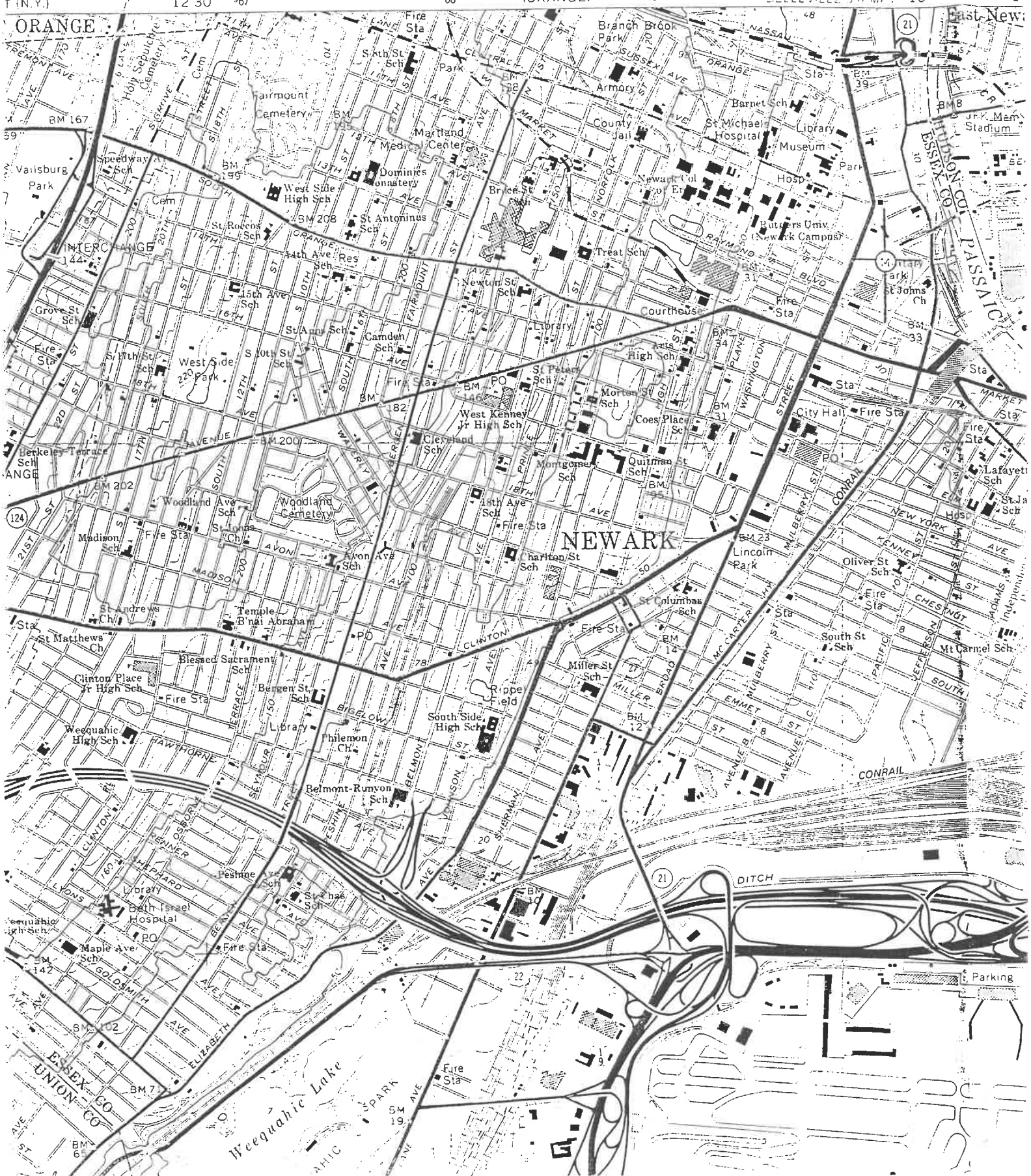
The following information is the same for all of the photographs listed:

- 1) Name of property: Essex Club
- 2) City and state: Newark, New Jersey
- 3) Photo by: Gerry Weinstein, Photo Recording Associates
- 4) Photo taken: August 2, 1990
- 5) Location of negative: Photo Recording Associates
40 W. 77th Street 17B
New York, N.Y. 10024

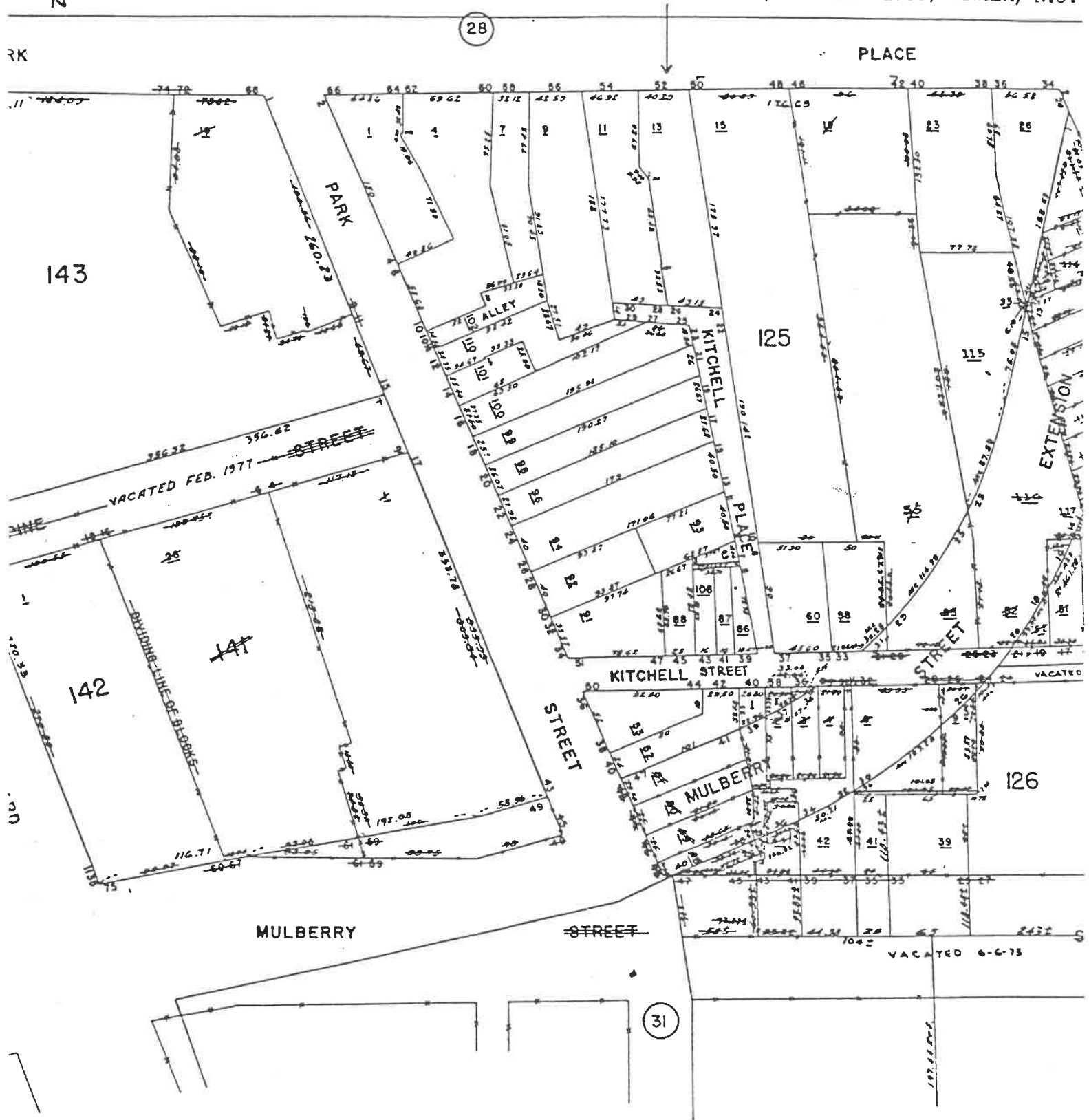
6) & 7) Descriptions of views indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 9: View of Park Place streetscape, camera pointing northeast
- Photo 2 of 9: Facade of the Essex Club, camera pointing east
- Photo 3 of 9: Lobby, camera pointing east
- Photo 4 of 9: Stairwell, camera pointing east
- Photo 5 of 9: Dining room, camera pointing northwest
- Photo 6 of 9: "Grill Room," camera pointing northeast
- Photo 7 of 9: "Lounge," camera pointing southwest
- Photo 8 of 9: Second floor landing, camera pointing south
- Photo 9 of 9: Squash courts and observation gallery, camera pointing southwest

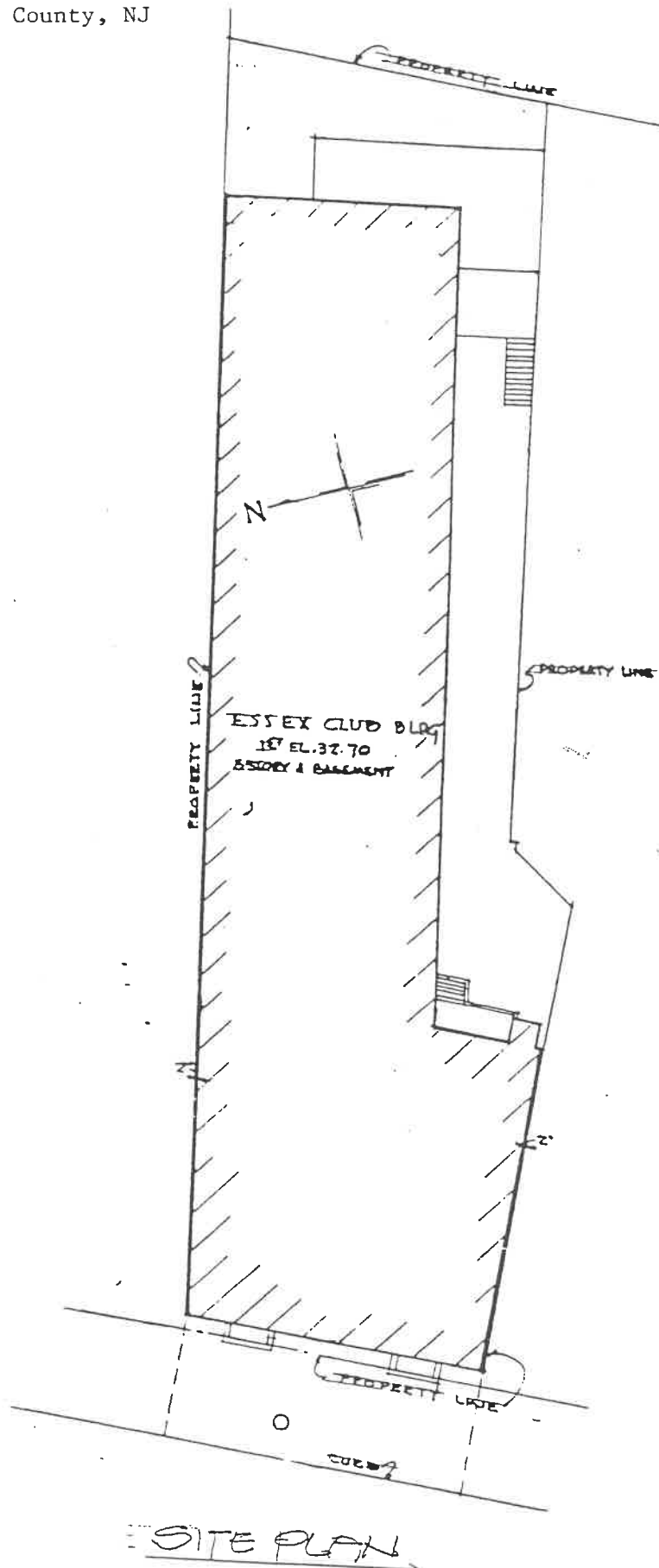
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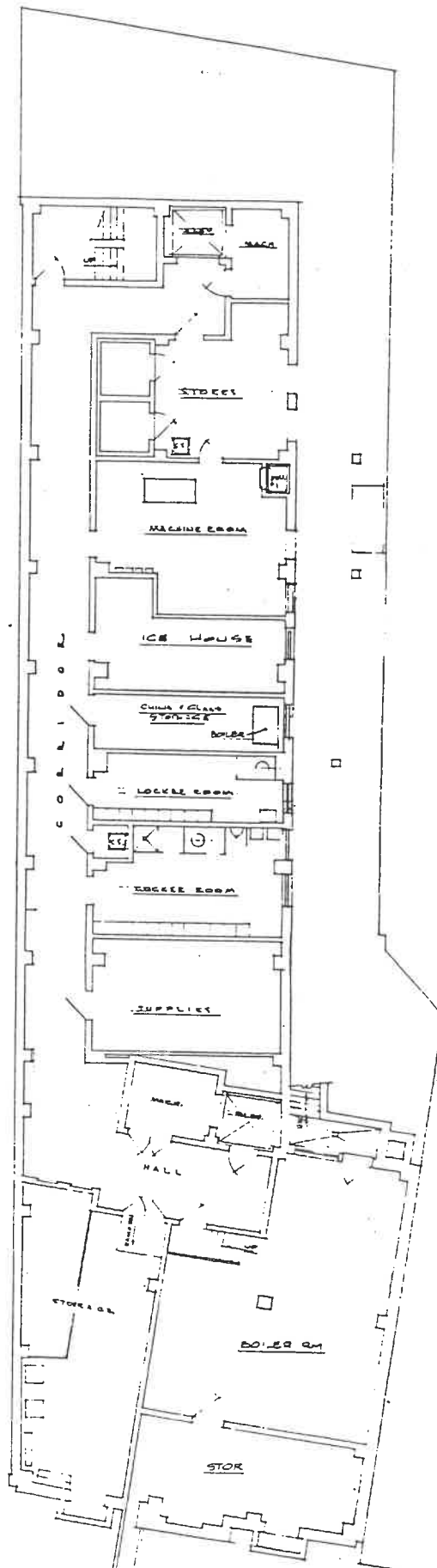
(Essex County)
The Essex Club, 52 Park Place, Newark, N.J.



Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ

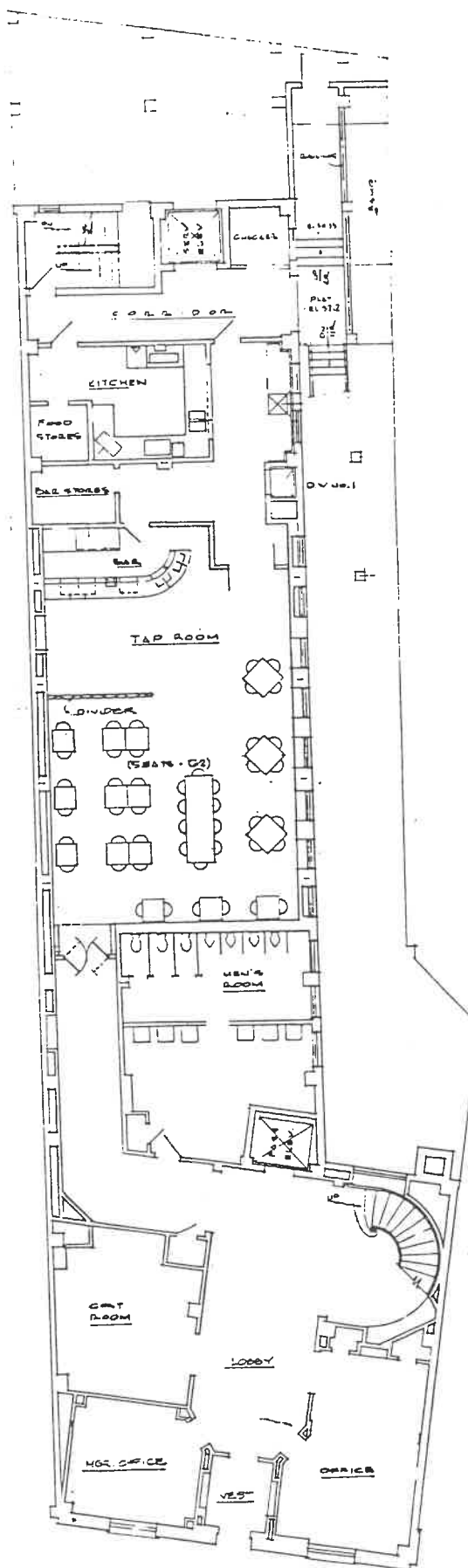


Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ



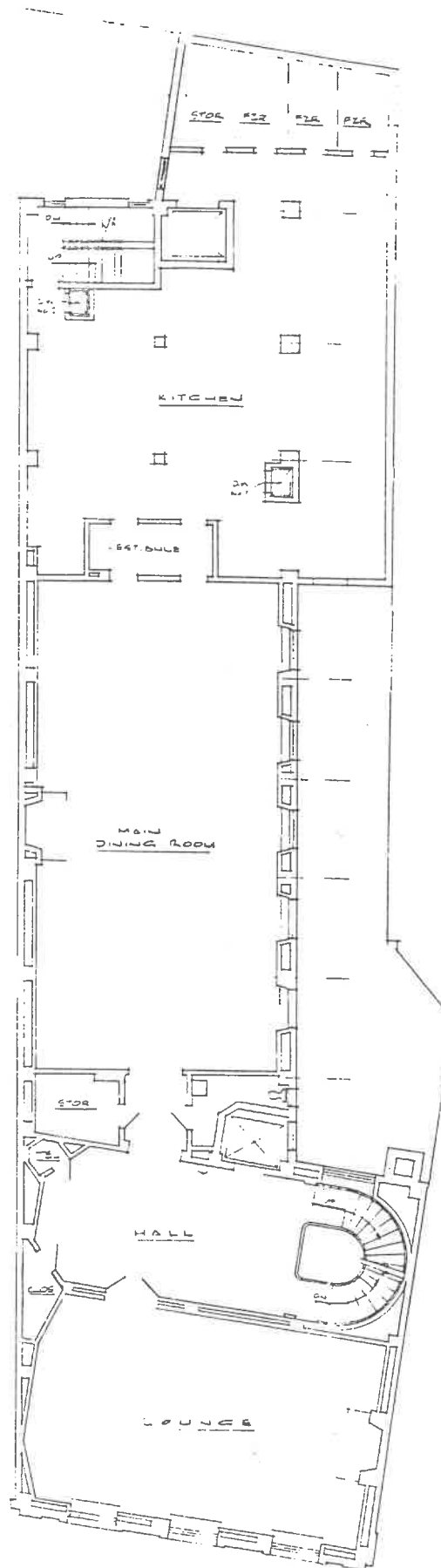
BASEMENT PLAN

Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ



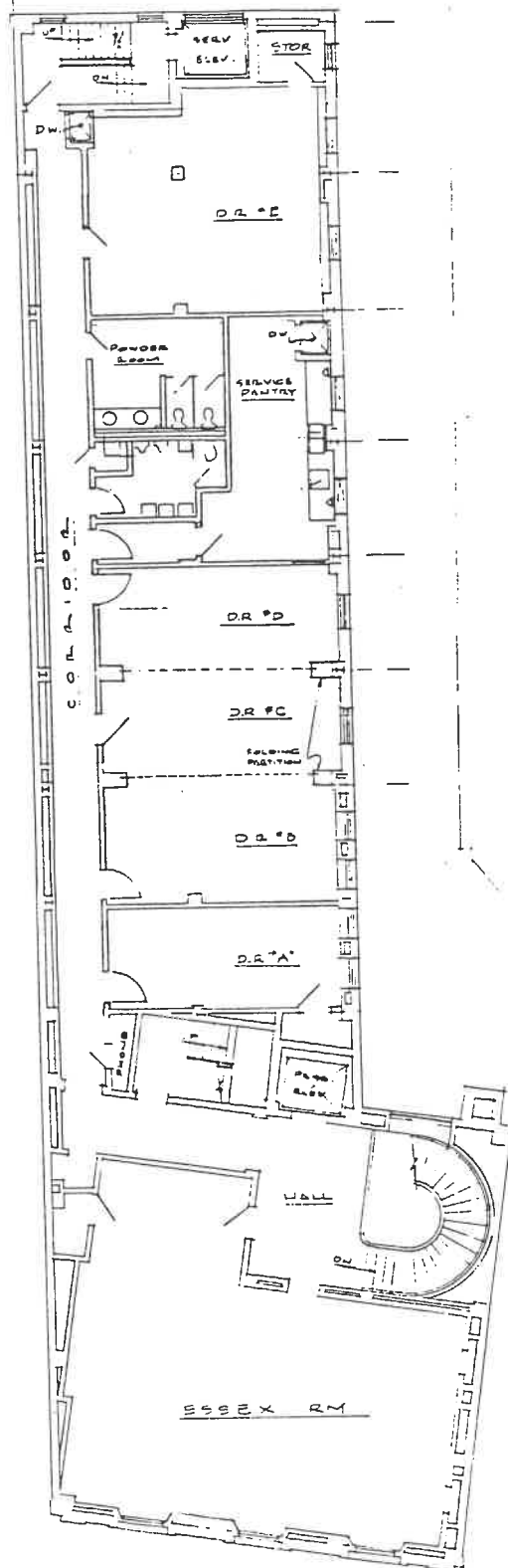
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ



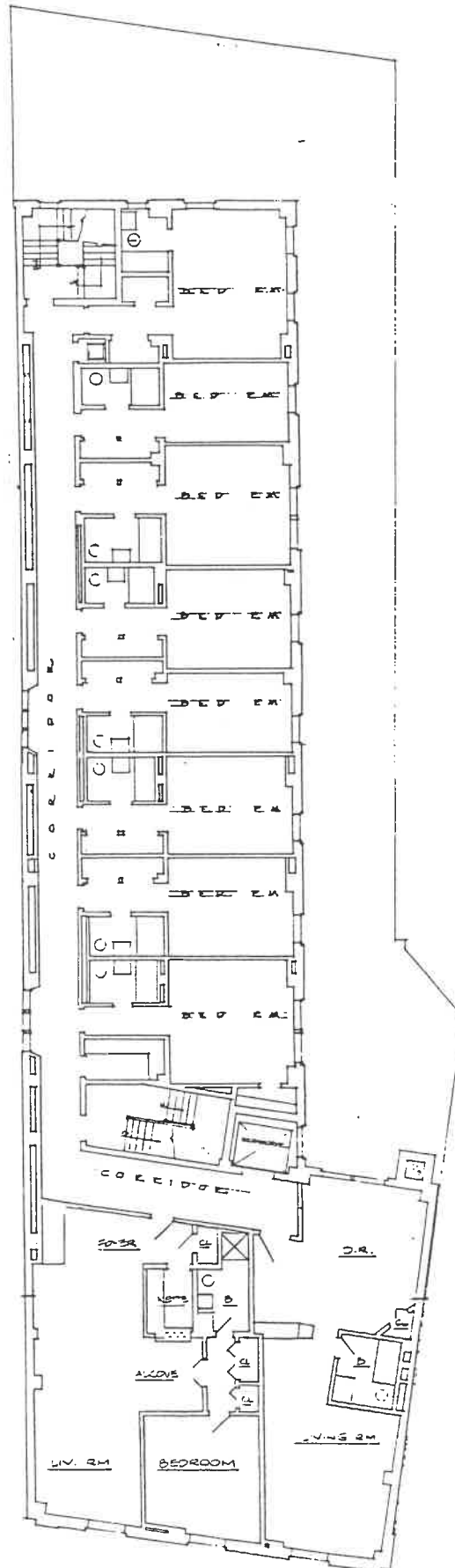
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ



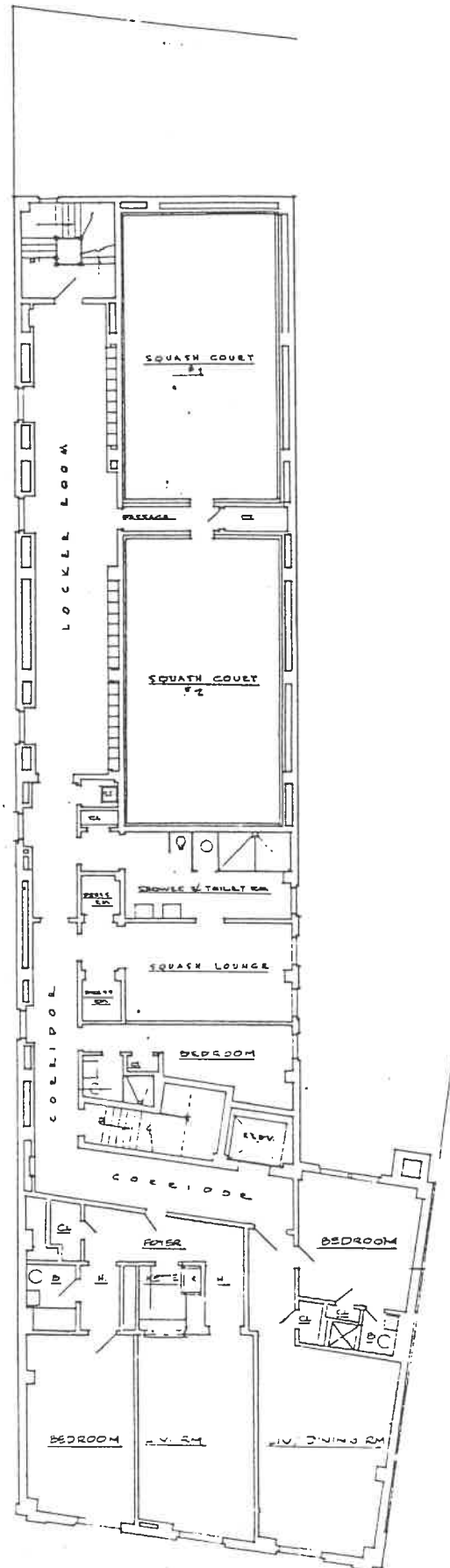
THIRD FLOOR PLAN

Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ



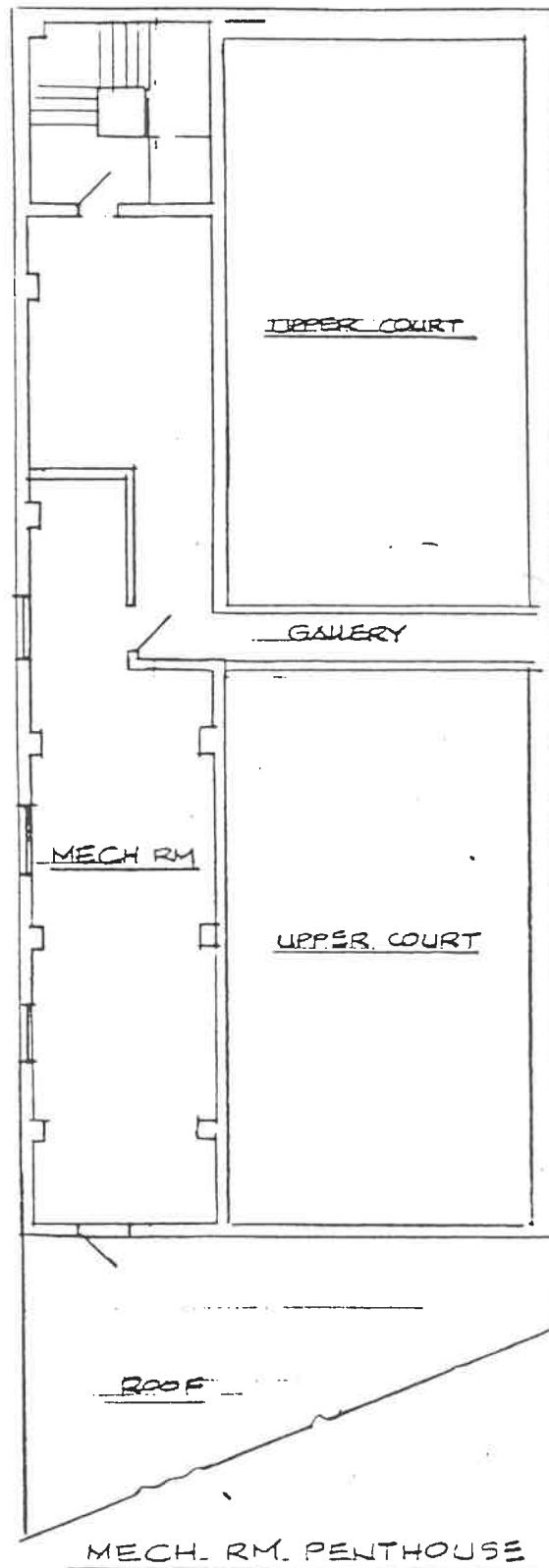
FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ



FIFTH FLOOR PLAN

Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, NJ





State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources
CN 402
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402
(609) 292-3541
FAX (609) 984-1414

January 17, 1990

Ms. Carol Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

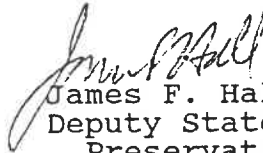
Dear Ms. Shull:

I am pleased to nominate the Essex Club, Newark, Essex County, New Jersey to the National Register.

This application has received majority approval from the New Jersey State Review Board. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Nancy L. Zerbe, Administrator, Office of New Jersey Heritage, CN-404, Trenton, New Jersey 08625 or call her at (609) 292-2023.

Sincerely,


James F. Hall
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

JFH/rw